Mr. PEPYS *To the* Presidents, *and* Governours *of* CHRIST-HOSPITAL, *upon the* Present State *of the said* HOSPITAL.

To the Honour'd Sir John Moor, *Kt. and* President, *and the rest of my Honour'd* Friends, *the* Governours *of* CHRIST-HOSPITAL.

York-Buildings, March 30th. 1699.

Gentlemen,

YOUR *Resolution* of the 22*th* instant, importing your *Election* of me to the Treasurership of this Hospital, was delivered me by the worthy *Gentlemen* appointed thereto, with a degree of *Respect* as obliging on *their* part, as the *Message* it self was on *Yours*; and both *surprising*. *Surprising* I say; but without ought of what (I find) was in too much *Tenderness* apprehended from me by some of this *Body* concerning it; as being *One*, who think nothing *below* the *Character* of any Man to *evacuate*, in a *Service* of Charity. And who therefore in my late *Snatches* into the *Condition* of this *House*, descended to Offices much *beneath* any thing that can occur in what you are *now* calling me to.

I therefore do most thankfully own the *Proof* you herein tender me of the *Continuance* of your *Esteem*; after the unwelcome *Freedom* I have for some time been unavoidably exercising towards you, upon the Unhappy *Subject* of your present *State*; in which *Your selves* are now pleased to give me this *Testimony* of your *acquiescence*: and in the *Redress* whereof, this Court shall never *want* any thing within *my* power *improvable* thereto.

But whether in the *method* you *now* propose, is *what* I have made it my *business* for some days to *consider*; without being able to bring

my self to any other *Determination* in it, Than that the giving you any *concluſive* Anſwer (whether of **Acceptance** or **Refuſal**) before this *Reſolution* of yours ſhall have paſſed the *Cenſure* of *another* **Court**, is a no leſs *Expoſing* of *Myſelf*, than *Impoſing* on *You*, (as in every like Caſe) under the *Uncertain* Iſſue of a *ſubſequent* **Court**; and when *that* is *over*, of the **Lord Mayor** and **Court** of **Aldermen** alſo: As *that* without which, by the known *Conſtitution* of *all* our **Corporations**, no *Election* of a **Treaſurer** is valid. A *Conſideration* of more than common *Weight* at this time; from the *Queſtion* under which the **Authority** of that **Court** now lies with *this*; without Ought I can hear-of yet done on *their* ſide, in its *Aſſertion*.

Which while in *doing*, and for Your clearer *Guidance* in Your *ſecond* **Debates** on this matter at the next **Court**, I think it becoming me, in *faithfulneſs* both to *You* and *Myſelf*, to lay before You the few following *Conſiderations*.

1ſt. That I am no **Freeman**; and conſequently, according to the *Original* **Book** of **Ordinances** by which alone (without entring into the *Reaſon* of it) *this* **Court** and *that* of the **Lord Mayor** and **Aldermen** are at liberty to Act herein; I neither am *capable* of being Your **Treaſurer**, nor *You* nor *They*, *apart* or *together*, in a *Capacity* of *making* me *ſo*. Nor is there, I believe, any one *Inſtance* to be ſhewn me, of a **Treaſurer** not a **Freeman**: And ſhould therefore moſt unwillingly ſubject Myſelf to *Queſtion*, for meddling *unwarrantably* with a **Revenue** ſo *Sacred* as that of the **Poor's**; or be an *Occaſion* of Your *adventuring* upon *that* in *my* Caſe, which was *never* yet done in *any*, nor can *now* juſtifiably be in *this*.

2dly. That the *Office* and *Work* of Your **Treaſurer** ought not to be eſtimated by what you have *ſeen* of it in its *Execution* for ſome Years *paſt*; but by the *Condition* the **Poor** is reduced to, from its being executed no *otherwiſe*. As being an *Office*, that calls at once for **Qualifications**, *ſuch* and *ſo many*, as rarely meet in the ſame *Perſon*: Such are (beſides *that* of an approved *Integrity*) *Vigour* of *Mind*, *Steadineſs* of *Temper*, *Entire Leaſure*, **Diſintereſtedneſs**, *Zeal* for and *Tenderneſs* towards the **Poor**, General **Experience**, and particular *Practick* in the Buſineſs of **Accounts**, a *Genius* fitted for **Computation** joyn'd with **Temper**, a *Thorough-Inſight* into the *Laws* and *Ends* of our **Conſtitution**, and a *Capacity* of **Controlling** every of our **Officers** and **Maſters** in the *Execution* of *their* **Duty's**, with a conſtancy of **Attendance** and **Application** (in his *own Perſon*, and not by *Others*) to the **Performance** of his *own*. A **Taſk** both in **Bulk** and *Weight*, too much for *my Age* and known *Infirmities*; Beſides the *Diſabilitys* I am alone *Conſcious* to my ſelf of, for it.

And though *what* I have here to *add*, might not poſſibly be reckon'd of *Moment* enough *alone* in this *Debate*: yet in *Conjunction* with what is *already* ſaid, I know not how without *Injury* to *my ſelf* to omit the obſerving; that I can with no *Satisfaction* think of *accepting* of a **Charge**, which *my ſelf* muſt be *own'd* to have had the greateſt *Hand* in the rendring *Vacant*.

3*dly*. —That ſuitable to my *Advice* to you *aſſembled* on this *Subject*, I do not ſee with what *Safety* this **Court** can proceed to the giving a *final Diſcharge* to its *late* **Treaſurer**, nor how it ſhould expect his being *Succeeded* by any Perſon of *Sincerity* or *Subſtance*, till a *State* ſhall be firſt *Adjuſted* of all your **Accounts**, **Revenues**, **Charges** and **Debts**, to your Own and Their *Satisfaction*; and *that* alſo *laid before*, and *acquieſced-in* by the **Court** of **Aldermen**. Beſides the *Review* and freſh *Eſtabliſhment* fit to be firſt had of the *Work* and *Inſtructions* of *that* **Officer**, before the *Admiſſion* of a *New*. As foreſeeing little *Fruit* from any *Change* of *Hands* (be it *what* it will) where thoſe *Hands* ſhall be obliged by no other *Rules* nor *Reſtrictions*, than thoſe we owe our preſent *Diſtreſſes* to.

For the more Succeſsful *Diſpatch* of which, as well on the part of your ſaid **Treaſurer** as *Your ſelves*; I ſubmit it to You, whether it may not be *adviſable*, that the *Current Work* of this **Office** be for the *Preſent* lodg'd with a ſmall **Committee** of Your *own Number*, *properly* choſen; till by the *Adjuſtment* of theſe Matters, You ſhall be in a *Condition* of reſtoring it to its *Ordinary Methods*.

4*ly*. —Laſtly, That no *Degree* of **Induſtry**, **Experience**, or other **Vertues** (before requir'd) in a **Treaſurer**, can alone be thought *Sufficient* at this *Juncture* (where our *Whole* **Conſtitution** lies at once out of Order) to compaſs its *Reformation*, without equal *Aid* from a no leſs *vigorous* and *perſevering*, however otherwiſe *meritorious* a **Preſident**. *One*, I mean, whoſe *thorough-knowledge* in the *Deſign*, *Powers*, *Limitations*, and *Orders* of this Pious **Foundation**, and the *Rules* of their *Execution*, is able both to preſerve *himſelf* from being either *diſcouraged* or *impoſed-on*, and by his *Authority*, *Zeal* and *Vigilance*, to prevent thoſe *Practices* which, from the *want* hereof, the *Generality* of this **Houſe** has been ſo long *miſled* by, to its **Undoing**. A *Reflection*, that in one word, would *alone* ſuffice (lay there nothing *elſe* in my way) to *deter* me from the *Undertaking* You *invite* me to, under the *Circumſtances* we at preſent labour in this *Particular*.

Which having ſaid, and the *Reaſons* of it thus *opened*; it remains only for me to *beg*, that my *declining* Your preſent **Offer** may not be taken for a *Declenſion* in any part of my *Concernment* for the *Proſperity* of this **Houſe**. Foraſmuch as no *Conſideration* ſhall ever *diſcourage* or *divert* me from the *purſuit* of it; till by *ſome* **Means**, *Ordinary* or *Extraordinary* (though much rather the *former*) I ſee it *reſtored* to the *State* wherein all *Good men* wiſh it.

In view whereof, give me leave with great *Satisfaction* once more to *aſſure* You, that (without any ſuch *Obligation* as *this* of your **Treaſurerſhip**) neither *You* nor Your helpleſs *Orphans* ſhall ever want the beſt *Effects* of my *Perſonal Attendance* and *Service*, from the *Moment* that, by *Your thorough-Applications*, and thoſe of the **Court** of **Aldermen** towards it, I ſhall have any *Grounds* to *hope*, that ſuch my *Attendance* and *Service*, may be followed with any *Succeſs*, to the *Recovery* of the *loſt Honour* of this **Houſe**, by its *Return* to that Religious *Strictneſs* which

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